

PRE

Princes must, by a vigorous exercise of that law, make it every man's interest and honour to cultivate religion and virtue, by rendering vice a disgrace, and the certain ruin to *pre-ferment* or pretensions. *Swift.*

2. A place of honour or profit.

All *preferments* should be placed upon fit men. *L'Estrange.*

3. Preference; act of preferring. Not in use.

All which declare a natural *preference* of the one unto the motion before the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREFERRER. [from *prefer*.] One who prefers.

TO PREFIGURATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figure*, Lat.] To shew by an antecedent representation.

PREFIGURATION. *n. f.* [from *præfigurare*.] Antecedent representation.

The same providence that hath wrought the one, will work the other; the former being pledges, as well as *præfigurations* of the latter. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

The variety of prophecies and *præfigurations* had their punctual accomplishment in the author of this institution. *Norris.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *figure*, Lat.] To exhibit by antecedent representation.

What the Old Testament hath, the very same the New containeth; but that which lieth there, as under a shadow, is here brought forth into the open sun; and things there *præfigured*, are here performed. *Hooker.*

Such piety, so chaste use of God's day,

That what we turn to feast, the turn'd to pray,

And did *præfigure* here in devout taste,

The rest of her high sabbath, which shall last. *Donne.*

If shame superadded to loss, and both met together, as the sinners portion here, perfectly *præfiguring* the two saddest ingredients in hell, deprivation of the blissful vision, and confusion of face, cannot prove efficacious to the mortifying of vice, the church doth give over the patient. *Hammond.*

TO PREFIGURE. *v. a.* [*præfigurare*, Fr. *præfigurer*, Lat.] To limit beforehand.

He, in his immoderate desires, *præfigured* unto himself three years, which the great monarchs of Rome could not perform in so many hundreds. *Knolles's Hist. of the Turks.*

TO PREFIX. *v. a.* [*præfixus*, Lat.]

1. To appoint beforehand.

At the *præfix'd* hour of her awaking,

Came I to take her from her kindred's vault. *Shakespeare.*

A time *præfix*, and think of me at last!

Its inundation constantly increaseth the seventh day of June; wherein a larger form of speech were safer, than that which punctually *præfixeth* a constant day. *Brown.*

Booth's forward valour only serv'd to show,

He durst that duty pay we all did owe:

Th' attempt was fair; but heav'n's *præfix'd* hour

Not come. *Dryden.*

2. To settle; to establish.

Because I would *præfix* some certain boundary between them, the old statutes end with king Edward II. the new or later statutes begin with king Edward III. *Hale's Law of England.*

These boundaries of species are as men, and not as nature makes them, if there are in nature any such *præfix'd* bounds. *Locke.*

3. To put before another thing; as, be *præfix'd* an advertisement to his book.

PREFIX. *n. f.* [*præfixum*, Lat.] Some particle put before a word, to vary its signification.

In the Hebrew language the noun has its *præfixa* and affixa, the former to signify some few relations, and the latter to denote the pronouns possessive and relative. *Clarke.*

It is a *præfix* of augmentation to many words in that language.

PREFIXION. *n. f.* [*præfixion*, Fr. from *præfix*.] The act of prefixing.

TO PREFORM. *v. a.* [*præ* and *form*.] To form beforehand.

If you consider the true cause,

Why all these things change, from their ordinance,

Their natures and *præform'd* faculties,

To monstrous quality; why you shall find,

That heav'n made them instruments of fear

Unto some monstrous state. *Shakespeare. Julius Cæsar.*

PREGNANCY. *n. f.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. The state of being with young.

The breast is encompassed with ribs, and the belly left free, for respiration; and in females, for that extraordinary extension in the time of their pregnancy. *Ray on the Creation.*

2. Fertility; fruitfulness; inventive power; acuteness.

Pregnancy is made a tapster, and hath his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

This writer, out of the pregnancy of his invention, hath found out an old way of insinuating the grossest reflections under the appearance of admonitions. *Swift's Miscel.*

PREGNANT. *adj.* [*pregnant*, Fr. *pregnans*, Lat.]

1. Teeming; breeding.

Thou

Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast abyss,

And mad'st it *pregnant*. *Milton.*

His town, as fame reports, was built of old

By Danae, *pregnant* with almighty gold. *Dryden.*

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Through either ocean, foolish man!

That *pregnant* word sent forth again,

Might to a world extend each atom there,

For every drop call forth a sea, a heav'n for ev'ry star. *Pri.*

2. Fruitful; fertile; impregnating.

All these in their *pregnant* causes mixt:

Call the floods from high, to rush amain

With *pregnant* streams, to swell the teeming grain. *Dryden.*

3. Full of consequence.

These knew not the just motives and *pregnant* grounds,

with which I thought myself furnished.

An egregious and *pregnant* instance how far virtue surpasses

ingenuity. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

O detestable, passive obedience! did I ever imagine I

should become thy votary in so *pregnant* an instance. *Arb.*

4. Evident; plain; clear; full. An obsolete sense.

This granted, as it is a most *pregnant* and unforc'd position,

who stands so eminent in the degree of this fortune as Cassio?

a knave very voluble. *Shakespeare. Othello.*

Were't not that we stand up against them all,

'Twere *pregnant*, they should square between themselves.

Shakespeare. Antony and Cleopatra.

5. Easy to produce any thing.

A most poor man made tame to fortune's blows,

Who by the art of known and feeling sorrows,

Am *pregnant* to good pity. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

6. Free; kind. Obsolete.

My matter hath no voice, but to your own most *pregnant*

and vouchsafed ear. *Shakespeare.*

PREGNANTLY. *adv.* [from *pregnant*.]

1. Fruitfully.

2. Fully; plainly; clearly.

A thousand moral paintings I can shew,

That shall demonstrate these quick blows of fortune

More *pregnantly* than words. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*

The dignity of this office among the Jews is to *pregnantly*

set forth in holy writ, that it is unquestionable; kings and

priests are mentioned together. *South's Sermon.*

PREGUSTATION. *n. f.* [*præ* and *gusto*, Lat.] The act of

tasting before another.

TO PREJUDGE. *v. a.* [*prejudger*, Fr. *præ* and *judicio*, Lat.] To

determine any question beforehand; generally to condemn

beforehand.

If he stood upon his own title of the house of Lancaster,

he knew it was condemn'd in parliament, and *prejudged* in

the common opinion of the realm, and that it tended to the

disinheritance of the line of York. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

The child was strong and able, though born in the eighth

month, which the physicians do *prejudge*. *Bacon.*

The committee of council hath *prejudged* the whole case,

by calling the united sense of both houses of parliament an

universal clamour. *Swift.*

Some action ought to be entered, lest a greater cause should

be injured and *prejudged* thereby. *Ayliffe.*

TO PREJUDICATE. *v. a.* [*præ* and *judicio*, Lat.] To de-

termine beforehand to disadvantage.

Our dearest friend

Prejudicates the business, and would seem

To have us make denial. *Shakespeare.*

Are you, in favour of his person, bent

Thus to *prejudicate* the innocent? *Sandys.*

PREJUDICATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Formed by prejudice; formed before examination.

This rule of casting away all our former *prejudicate* opi-

nions, is not proposed to any of us to be practised at once as

subjects or christians, but merely as philosophers. *Watts.*

2. Prejudiced; prepossessed.

Their works will be embraced by most that understand

them, and their reasons enforce belief from *prejudicate*

readers. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREJUDICATION. *n. f.* [from *prejudicate*.] The act of judg-

ing beforehand.

PREJUDICE. *n. f.* [*prejudice*, Fr. *præjudicium*, Lat.]

1. Prepossession; judgment formed beforehand without exami-

nation. It is used for prepossession in favour of any thing or

against it. It is sometimes used with to before that which the

prejudice is against, but not properly.

The king himself frequently considered more the person

who spoke, as he was in his *prejudice*, than the counsel itself

that was given. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

My comfort is, that their manifest *prejudice* to my cause

will render their judgment of less authority. *Dryden.*

There is an unaccountable *prejudice* to projectors of all

kinds, for which reason, when I talk of practising to fly,

filly people think me an owl for my pains. *Addison.*

2. Mischief; detriment; hurt; injury. This sense is only ac-

cidental or consequential; a *bad thing* being called a *prejudice*,

only because *prejudice* is commonly a *bad thing*, and is not de-

rived from the original or etymology of the word: it were

therefore better to use it less; perhaps *prejudice* ought never

to be applied to any mischief, which does not imply some

partiality or prepossession. In some of the following examples

its impropriety will be discovered. *I have*

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I have not spoke one the least word,

That might be *prejudice* of her present state,

Or touch of her good person. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

England and France might, through their amity,

Breed him some *prejudice*; for from this league

Peep'd harms that menac'd him. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

Factions carried too high and too violently, is a sign of

weakness in princes, and much to the *prejudice* of their au-

thority and business. *Bacon.*

How plain this abuse is, and what *prejudice* it does to the

understanding of the sacred scriptures. *Locke.*

A prince of this character will instruct us by his example,

to fix the unsteadiness of our politics; or by his conduct

hinder it from doing us any *prejudice*. *Addison.*

TO PREJUDICE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To prepossess with unexamined opinions; to fill with pre-

judices.

Half-pillars wanted their expected height,

And roofs imperfect *prejudic'd* the sight. *Prior.*

Suffer not any beloved study to *prejudice* your mind, so far

as to despise all other learning. *Watts.*

No flames to captivate the mind he spreads,

Nor bribes your eyes to *prejudice* your heads. *Anonym.*

2. To obstruct or injure by prejudices previously raised.

Companies of learned men, be they never so great and re-

verend, are to yield unto reason; the weight whereof is no

whit *prejudiced* by the simplicity of his person, which doth

allege it. *Hooker, b. ii. f. 7.*

Neither must his example, done without the book, *preju-*

dice that which is well appointed in the book. *Whitefield.*

I am not to *prejudice* the cause of my fellow-poets, though

I abandon my own defence. *Dryden.*

3. To injure; to hurt; to diminish; to impair; to be detri-

mental to. This sense, as in the noun, is often improperly

extended to meanings that have no relation to the original

sense; who can read with patience of an ingredient that *pre-*

judices a medicine?

The strength of that law is such, that no particular nation

can lawfully *prejudice* the same by any their several laws and

ordinances, more than a man by his private resolutions, the

law of the whole commonwealth wherein he liveth. *Hooker.*

The Danube secur'd, and the empire sav'd,

Say, is the majesty of verse retriev'd?

And would it *prejudice* thy softer vein,

To sing the princes, Louis and Eugene? *Prior.*

To this is added a vinous bitter, warmer in the composition

of its ingredients than the watry infusion; and, as gentian

and lemon-peel make a bitter of so grateful a flavour, the

only care required in this composition was to chuse such an ad-

dition as might not *prejudice* it. *London Dispensatory.*

PREJUDICIAL. *adj.* [*præjudicialis*, Fr. from *prejudice*.]

1. Obstructive by means of opposite prepossessions.

2. Contrary; opposite.

What one syllable is there, in all this, *prejudicial* any way

to that which we hold? *Hooker, b. ii. f. 5.*

3. Mischievous; hurtful; injurious; detrimental. This sense

is improper. See *PREJUDICE*, noun and verb.

His going away the next morning with all his troops, was

most *prejudicial* and most ruinous to the king's affairs. *Clarend.*

One of the young ladies reads, while the others are at

work; so that the learning of the family is not at all *preju-*

dicial to its manufactures. *Addison's Guardian.*

A state of great prosperity, as it exposes us to various

temptations, so it is often *prejudicial* to us, in that it swells

the mind with undue thoughts. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

PREJUDICIALNESS. *n. f.* [from *prejudicial*.] The state of being

prejudicial; mischievousness.

PRELACY. *n. f.* [from *prælate*.]

1. The dignity or post of a prelate or ecclesiastick of the highest

order.

Prelacies may be termed the greater benefices; as that of

the pontificate, a patriarchship, an archbishoprick and bisho-

rick. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

2. Episcopacy; the order of bishops.

The presbyter, puff'd up